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**THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison**

### DEAD OR ALIVE

Did you know that one can be dead and alive at the same time? Yes, one may be dead spiritually and alive physically. Sadly, this is true of the majority of this world's population (Matthew 7:13-14). Sin brings spiritual death. To be spiritually dead is to be separated from God (Isaiah 59:2). The Bible tells us, "For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23a).

When Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus he addressed their past life before becoming Christians in the words, "And you He **made alive**, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others" (Ephesians 2:1-3). The spiritually dead are those who are walking according to the course or direction of this world. The spiritually dead are fulfilling their own fleshly lusts and desires of the mind. The spiritually dead are enslaved in the bondage of sin. Jesus said, "...whoever commits sin is a slave of sin" (John 8:34). But the Ephesians, who had been spiritually dead, had been made alive spiritually. How? Inspiration answers, "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we **were dead in trespasses**, made us **alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved)" (Ephesians 2:4-5). Yes, God has provided through the precious blood of Jesus the means by which one may be forgiven of sin and be made spiritually alive thereby escaping spiritual death and its eternal consequences (Romans 5:8-9; 1 Peter 1:19).

Are you dead even as you now live? Have you made the proper response to God's gracious offer to forgive you of your sins and make you alive in Christ Jesus? Have you exercised your faith in obeying His command to hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 17:30), confess faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10) and to be immersed in water for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38)? If not, then you are dead while you live. We plead with you to accept the freedom from spiritual death that Jesus provides. Obey Him today before time and opportunity are no more. Yes, today is the day of salvation for tomorrow may be too late! Visit us online at [reenplainchurchofchrist.org](http://reenplainchurchofchrist.org) and [gbntv.org](http://gbntv.org).